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Letter dated 18 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my meeting with you on 16 January 2013 regarding the current session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan in Addis Ababa, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter signed by First Lt. Gen. PSc Eng. Abdulrahim Mohammed Hussein, Minister of Defence (Republic of the Sudan), Chair of the Sudanese side of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, addressed to Lt. Gen. Tadesse Werede Tesfay, Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (see annex). The letter, which is self-explanatory, confirms that the Government of the Republic of the Sudan has no military presence south of the zero line of the map presented by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.

The letter confirms the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to immediately redeploy the Sudan Armed Forces outside the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone within the identified period of time. It also confirms the commitment of the Sudan for all of the 14-mile area to be in the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone, and looks forward to the Government of South Sudan taking a similar stance.

You are kindly requested to circulate the letter present and the annex thereto as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan reaffirms its full commitment to all the previously signed agreements with the Republic of South Sudan, in particular the Agreement on Security Arrangements of 27 September 2012, and in this regard would like to convey the following:

1. In compliance with the African Union Peace and Security Council road map, Security Council resolution 2046 (2012) and the Agreement on Security Arrangements between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan (27 September 2012), and in line with the implementation plan approved by the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (19 December 2012), we would like to reconfirm that the Government of the Republic of the Sudan currently has no military presence south of the zero line as per the map of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel which was presented to both parties;

2. Further, we reaffirm our full commitment to the immediate redeployment of the Sudan Armed Forces outside the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone within the identified period of time, and as we reaffirm our commitment for all of the 14-mile area to be in the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone, we look forward to the Government of South Sudan taking a similar stance;

3. We also reiterate the keenness of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan to opertionalize all the agreed mechanisms which guarantee the realization of peace, security and stability across the common border areas between the two countries. We are also ready to discuss, through the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, all concerns and security issues which may be raised by both countries, demonstrating sufficient flexibility in the establishment of any new mechanisms which may participate in the resolution of the security concern and lead to confidence-building between the two States.

(*Signed*) First Lt. Gen. PSc Eng. Abdulrahim Mohammed **Hussein**
Minister of Defence (Republic of the Sudan)